



THE PHOENIX

STEWARDS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 3 • 2025



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Whenever you work on making something better it is a combination of major shifts and slow movement forwards. Sometimes you get to achieve a big goal in a small space of time and can see the difference immediately. However, most of the time it is the day by day improvements that you don't always notice until suddenly one day someone else tells you or you have a moment of realisation. For me this is what leading Stewards on our journey of improvement is all about. I know it will take a number of years to get us to where we should be in every area of our work so that we provide our young people with the very best education in every area of our work. Yet I also know that we are firmly pointed in a direction of travel and that each day we move forward in that direction.

On the day of writing this piece at the start of the last week before half-term, I had one of those moments of positive realisation when I stood with Mr Perrin on duty at the front of the school. Since reissuing every student with a lanyard, card holder and new ID badge over the last few weeks we have been making this the focus of our checks on the way in to school. Students show us their ID badge with their photo on it as they come in, and only a tiny number each day don't have this. At the start of the school year, we were having to challenge over blazers, shoes, untucked shirts and other uniform matters. Now students need very little challenging over this as they get themselves fully ready and smart before they get to us every day. The arguments over blazers, skirts and shirts that characterised the autumn are pretty much finished now as our students have adopted the higher standards we set for them and show their pride and self-respect every day as they arrive at school.

Of course this will always be something we have to work on, but changes are clear to me. I think we need to return some focus on jewellery after half-term as we have clearly let that slip a little, but that is fine as I know we can do this without any real problem. Having a culture of high standards becomes a part of everyday conduct for all of us and helps deliver a better school.

As you know we are working on all areas of our work as a school, and I could have chosen our work on SEND, maths, English, catering or indeed other areas to focus on. However, as I sat down to write this ID badges was in the forefront of my mind, so that is what I have written about. I am proud every day of our young people and the way they rise to the challenges we set for them. We expect them to work hard and show focus on high standards at all times, and this is something that I as headteacher make sure is at the core of the work of all the adults in our school. Sometimes we get it absolutely correct and other times we have to rethink. That is the journey of improvement. It is worth it.

MR DREW

Stewards Learner

As another busy half-term draws to a close, I would once again like to thank all pupils, staff and parents for their support this year it really has made such a massive difference. I would also like to wish all our year 11 students the very best of luck with their up and coming PPE's.

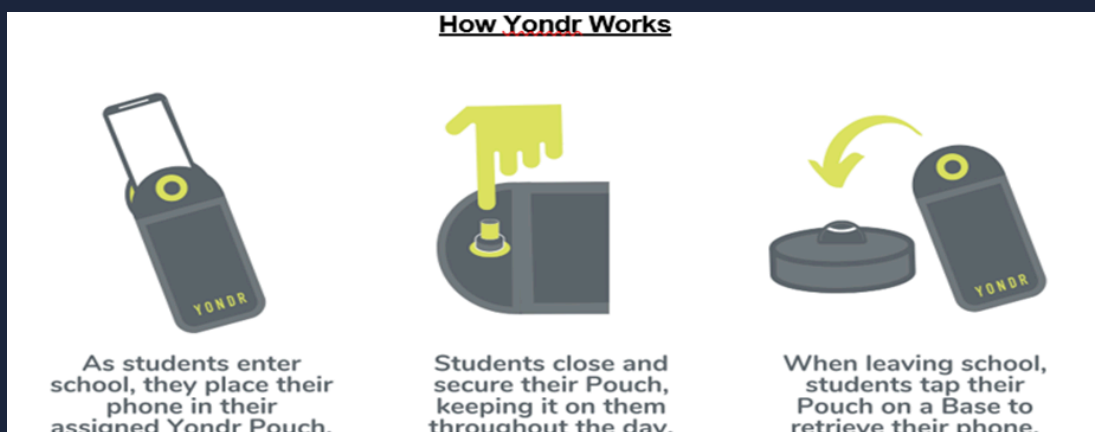
Attendance and punctuality remain a key focus for the school, we all know that this is key to future success. This strategy will continue into the next half-term and as I have said previously, your support is crucial in ensuring that pupils arrive to school everyday and are punctual to all of their lessons.

Uniform: Just a reminder that all students are expected to follow the school's uniform policy through out the day. Pupils arriving to school without the correct uniform will be met at uniform gate and provided with the necessary items. If as parents you can ensure that pupils leave home in the correct uniform it makes for a much more positive start to the day.

As you will be aware we are moving towards making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called Yondr. Yondr has been implemented in thousands of schools across 35 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment. and we are confident Yondr will have a positive impact here as well.

Research carried out has found that learning and social behaviour improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.



Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behaviour
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom
- 86% of schools saw a positive impact on student safety and wellness

More information will follow over the next half-term with a series of parent and student focused events.

Once again thank you so much for all your hard work and support! have a great Half-term, take care and stay safe.

Mr Scholtes

Stewards Academy Achieves 2024 PTI Subject Leadership Mark



Stewards Academy is delighted to have achieved the 2024 PTI Subject Leadership Mark for Art and DT. Art has been awarded every year since 2018 and DT have been awarded for the second year, after being the first department in the country to be awarded it last year.

Stewards has a long-standing relationship of working with the PTI with new teacher training, subject enhancement courses and developing the work of subject leaders. Both have been recognised for their “commitment to promoting challenge within the curriculum, enthusing pupils, enhancing teachers’ subject knowledge, and raising the profile of their subject”.

Mr Drew, Headteacher, said: “It is testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff that the academy has been the recipient of this award again this year. Our staff strive for excellence and are passionate about their subject areas. I look forward to the year ahead as we continue to build and go from strength to strength in all areas.”

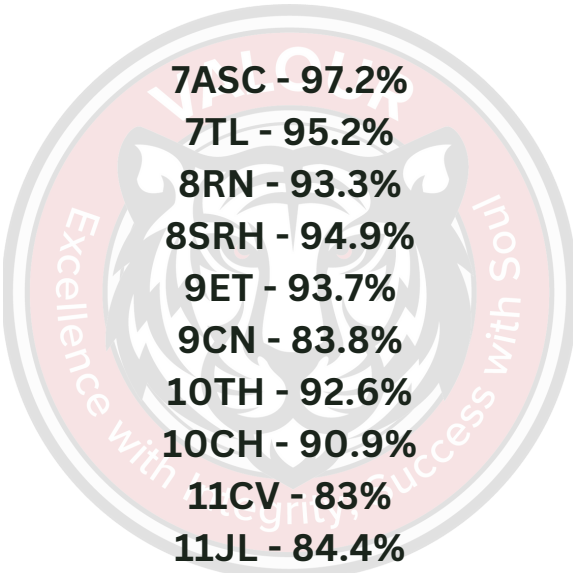
HOUSE

ATTENDANCE

STEWARDS
ACADEMY



www.stewardsacademy.org



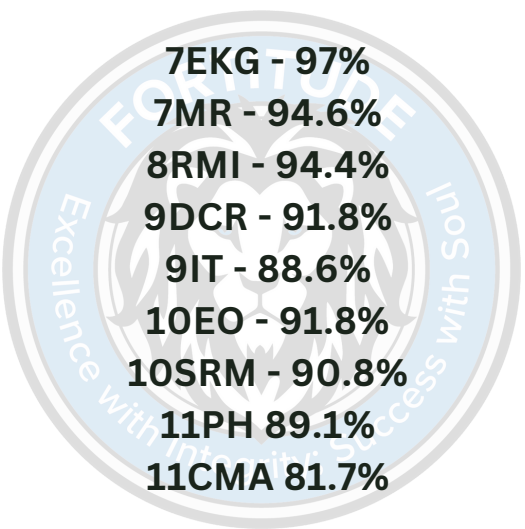
7ASC - 97.2%
7TL - 95.2%
8RN - 93.3%
8SRH - 94.9%
9ET - 93.7%
9CN - 83.8%
10TH - 92.6%
10CH - 90.9%
11CV - 83%
11JL - 84.4%



7EC - 96.6%
8UM - 93.2%
8VMS - 90.6%
9ARM - 90%
9DSR - 95.4%
10KLD - 91.9%
10KS - 92.4%
11ASD - 90.9%
11SPS - 94.3%



7NAD - 96.7%
7ROG - 97.6%
8KW - 95.3%
9TMY - 95.7%
9JM - 82.2%
10KH - 89.4%
10FS - 93.6%
11KJ - 92.5%
11ACL - 94.3%



7EKG - 97%
7MR - 94.6%
8RMI - 94.4%
9DCR - 91.8%
9IT - 88.6%
10EO - 91.8%
10SRM - 90.8%
11PH - 89.1%
11CMA - 81.7%



TEACHING & LEARNING

Welcome to our Spring Term Teaching and Learning Update: Enhancing Teaching and Learning

Our Commitment to Excellence

At Stewards Academy, we are working hard to foster a culture of continuous improvement in teaching and learning. Our goal is to ensure that every student receives the highest quality education, and we achieve this by supporting our teachers through structured professional development and ongoing classroom observations.

As we approach the halfway point of the academic year, our Teaching and Learning team would like to thank students, teaching staff and co-educators for all their hard work this term. Their dedication and commitment have been instrumental in driving positive outcomes for our school.

Whole-School Improvement for Teaching and Learning

As part of our commitment to excellence, we have implemented a whole-school improvement plan that prioritises effective teaching strategies and student engagement. This initiative is designed to enhance the learning experience for all students while equipping teachers with the tools they need to succeed. By promoting a collaborative environment, we encourage the sharing of best practices among staff to drive standards and progress in the classroom.

Regular Classroom Observations

To support continuous professional growth, all teachers are observed once per month. These observations provide valuable insights into teaching practices and help identify areas of strength as well as opportunities for development. Feedback is provided in a constructive and supportive manner, ensuring that teachers feel empowered to refine their skills and enhance student learning outcomes.

Training and Support for Staff Development

Where areas for development are identified, we offer targeted training and support to help teachers improve their practice.

At Stewards Academy, we believe that investing in our teachers is an investment in our students' future. By continually striving for excellence in teaching and learning, we create an environment where both educators and students can reach their full potential. We are proud of the dedication and hard work of our staff and remain committed to fostering a culture of ongoing improvement.

Ms James

Stewards Academy Hosts Chris Vince MP

Stewards Academy hosted Chris Vince MP recently and he was given a presentation by an award-winning group of Year 10 students. The students had successfully participated in a prestigious national award called 'Solutions for the Planet' which embraces environmental sustainability.

As part of this award the team worked to create an idea which encourages people to exercise and charge electronic devices at the same time. The 'Bio Bike' uses pedal power to charge phones and other electronics while people exercise.

The Stewards Academy 'Bio Bike' team finished second in the regional 'Solutions for the Planet' final at the University of East London and received special commendation for their ideas and presentation at the National Final hosted by the Science Museum in London in July 2024.

Mr Hickman, Subject Leader for Geography, said: "Mr Vince was impressed by our students' presentation and congratulated them on their success. It was an excellent opportunity for him to see some of the excellent young people we have here at Stewards. I am incredibly proud of all of them."



THE RAINBOW PROJECT

Some of our amazing students recently completed the Rainbow project, where they were able to work together as a team and build a bench and 2 planters for the school in a purpose-built carpentry workshop in Harlow. The Rainbow Project supports students to gain qualifications and engage with community activities, and education.

Miss Muzangwa



Stewards Remembers

The Stewards Academy community came together to mark a moment of silence and reflection as part of our annual Remembrance Service.

Staff and students stood proudly together at the heart of the school – the quad – facing members of the student body in their cadets, scouts or guides uniform, senior staff and senior students.

The service was led by Mr Drew, Headteacher, starting with The Exhortation followed by a guest trumpeter who played The Last Post, and a two-minute silence. The service concluded with poems read by our four senior students Ethan Root, Alegria Manzambi, Theo Narburgh-Boateng and Guoda Juozapaityte, and Mr Drew putting everything into perspective regarding the conflicts of the past and the world we live in today.

Mr Drew, said: "As I looked across the quad at the school community, I felt immense pride at how respectful and mature our young people were as they participated in the service. I felt honoured to lead the service as Headteacher."

Cultural Event

Stewards Academy rounded off the first half term with its fantastic celebratory Cultural Event! This annual event took place in its new calendar slot and was organised by the EMPV team that involved students from all years.

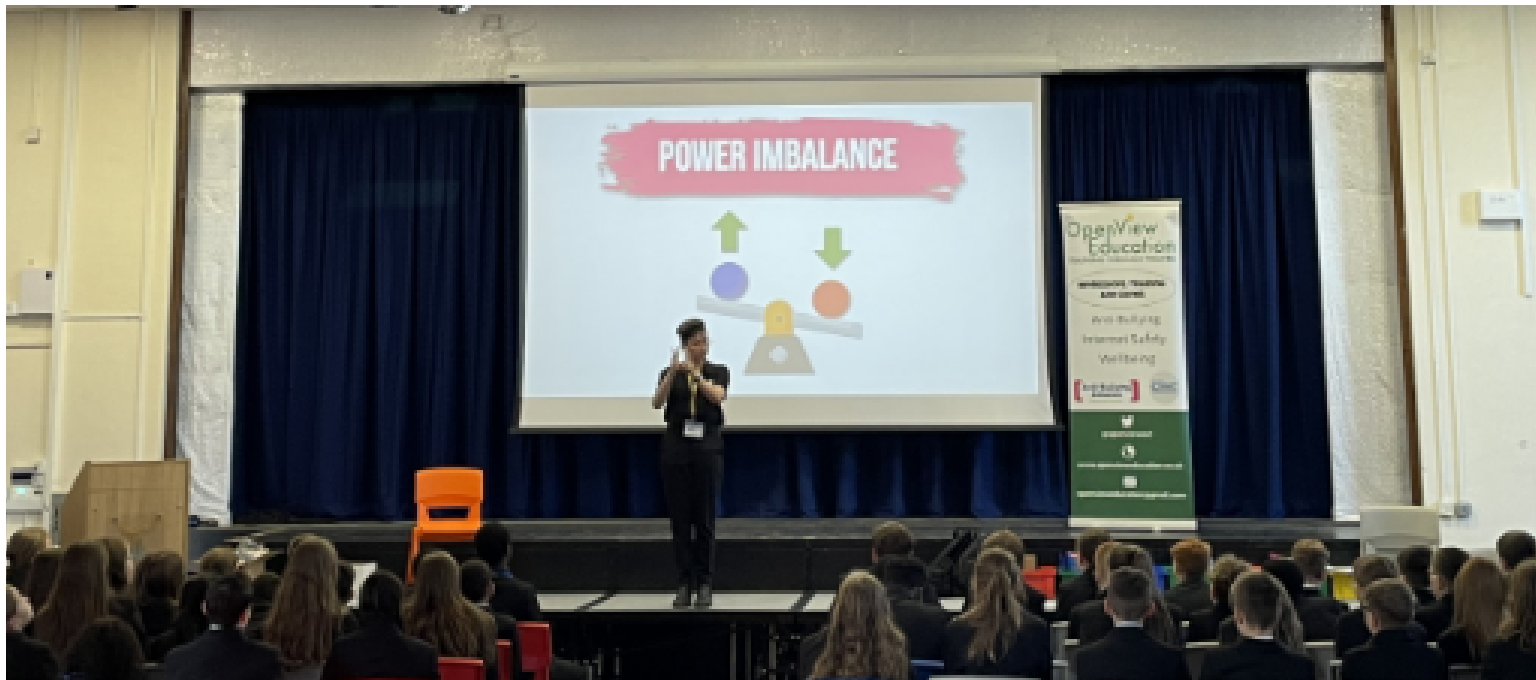
Guests were invited to try a delicious array of food from different cultures, prepared by Catering Manager Andrew Saunders and members of his team. The wonderful smells of the cuisine delights wafted enticingly as everyone headed towards the dining room.

After the feast, guests were invited into the hall, transformed with its catwalk, and watched an array of vibrant performances and the 'fashion event' where participating students showcased a range of beautiful outfits from their cultures. The event was hosted by Miss Thomas, Ms Stylianou and Year 11 students. The audience also learnt about links with an orphanage and the planned work of the EMPV this year.

Miss Thomas, EMPV leader, said: "Over 100 students volunteered to be part of the event with many supporting in the audience too. This was an absolutely wonderful event and highlighted the great community spirit we have here at Stewards. I am so proud of everyone involved and look forward to continuing to see the important work of the EMPV develop and grow."



Anti-Bullying Workshops



Following the success of workshops in the summer term to the current Year 9s and 10s, Stewards Academy was delighted to welcome back OpenView Education to lead 'Upstander Impact' workshops with our Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Stewards encourages all students to act appropriately and treat each other with kindness and respect. The workshops, led by the engaging Emily, help to reinforce the work students undertake in Ethics and Values, assemblies and form time.

The workshops reminded students that bullying is the repetitive intentional hurting of one person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It also reiterated how this can happen face to face or online. The students engaged in role play activities and considered how they would respond in certain situations.

One student in Year 7 said: "I understand now that if you are in a group and one person is being unkind regularly to someone else, that you are a bystander and will be seen as a bully if you don't do anything about it. I have learnt to be an upstander."

A student in Year 8 said: "I really enjoyed the workshop and particularly the role play part. I liked pretending to be the perpetrator and seeing how things would be dealt with."

Mrs Atkinson, Designated Safeguarding Lead, said: "We would like to thank Emily for her powerful delivery to our young people. It is important that they have opportunities to access these key messages throughout the year and through different voices. We want our young people to be empowered to be upstanders and be confident in reporting any unkindness."

Year 8 Students Visit Hampton Court Palace

On October 17th 50 Year 8 students visited Hampton Court Palace in Kent. This palace is best known for being home to England's infamous King Henry VIII. Students were able to see the Tudor history studied in both History and English lessons brought to life through colourful characters who guided us around the castle's most important and impressive rooms.

Pupils walked in the footsteps of King Henry VIII, visiting the sumptuous state apartments and the dazzling Great Hall which drew gasps of awe from our pupils. Students and staff enjoyed gazing at artwork throughout the palace and shuddered at the idea of Katherine Howard's journey through the Haunted Gallery all those years ago. A highlight of the tour was the breathtaking Chapel Royal where Henry VIII's only son Edward was christened.

Year 8 did Stewards proud by answering several questions in detail to the delight of both our tour guide and Mr Hawk!

We hope to offer this trip to more students next year after its success this autumn; watch this space!

Mrs O'Grady



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 29th January, twenty-nine Year 9 and thirty-six Year 10 pupils took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. This involved completing 25 challenging maths questions on many different topics intended to showcase their problem-solving skills. Pupils were competing against students at a high level in Year 9, 10 and 11 across the country.

This is an annual challenge which Stewards has participated in for many years, and once again the pupils have done us incredibly proud. This challenge is extremely difficult as students must apply excellent mathematical thinking in order to find the solutions.

Our pupils showed great resilience throughout the challenge which is reflected in the fantastic results. Special mentions to:

Special mentions go to Riley Howe who achieved the 'Best in Year' award and Sian Griffiths who achieved 'Best in School'. Congratulations to all our bronze and silver winners, we are extremely proud of you all.

Next up will be the junior challenge for Years 7 & 8 in the summer term. We will keep you updated on how they get on and hopefully more award news to follow.

Silver Award Winners



'Best in Year' Award Winner

Bronze Award Winners



'Best in School' Award Winner

Mrs Woolley



CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

The Creative Writing Club has gone from strength to strength since September, welcoming wonderful new members from year 7 we have seen an influx of new passion and creativity.

Club ambassadors have helped to promote the club and the whole school poetry and saga competitions, in conjunction with 'Young Writers.' We have seen record entries into recent competitions and are pleased to see many entries from all members of the school community, all of which have a chance to be published.

Future competitions include both short story and poetry competitions as well as the prestigious Foyles and Bridport prizes.

We are also currently developing writing workshops that shall focus on specifics of writing; including use of figurative language to create setting and character and how to create imagery in poetry.

All abilities of writing are welcome, and students do not have to attend regularly to become a member. Please see Mr. Springthorpe for further details.

Mr Springthorpe



BOARD GAMES CLUB

Welcome to Board Games Club – a place where you can make friends, have fun and enter and escape into worlds of mystery and magic, logic and problem solving. Since September we have welcomed many new members from year 7 and seen introductions of many new games purchased through our Jack Petchey Funds. Members are now gaining confidence in running their own games and it is wonderful to see so many games taking place each week.

We often share snacks and bring new game ideas and titles, experienced from elsewhere in Harlow. We are creating links with Marquee Models and Geek Retreat in the Harvey Centre and some of our members also attend their gaming groups.

So why don't you come along and join the fun and adventure – you can bring your own board games or join one. If you wish to experience Dungeons and Dragons for the first time or HeroQuest, then sign up and enter a new adventurous world.

For further details please see George Springthorpe 10CH or Mr. Springthorpe in room 11.

RISING FUTURES PROGRAMME SUCCESS!



At Stewards Academy, we are committed to nurturing the potential of every student and equipping them with the tools to thrive both academically and personally. This academic year, we are thrilled to announce our second cohort of Year 9 pupils have participated in an exciting initiative to support their personal development and growth: The Rising Futures Programme. This innovative programme is designed to encourage forward-thinking, build confidence, and develop vital life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience.

The Rising Futures Programme is an exclusive opportunity offered to eighteen selected Year 9 pupils who have been identified as deserving of a chance to develop their leadership potential, broaden their horizons, and focus on their future careers and aspirations. This intervention is led by the inspiring Verity Walsh, whose dedication to the personal development and success of every pupil is truly unmatched. Known for her selflessness, compassion, and unwavering belief in the potential of young people, Verity's leadership ensures that every participant feels supported, valued, and empowered to reach for their dreams.

Mrs Annetts, a dedicated teacher at Stewards Academy, accompanied the group on their inspiring trip to the Outdoor Pursuit Centre in Harlow, bringing her enthusiasm, encouragement, and support that motivated pupils to step out of their comfort zones and embrace every challenge. Mrs Annetts reflects on an unforgettable day and recounts how the pupils faced their fears and grew in both confidence and resilience.

"Watching these students, many of them shy and unsure in school, collaborate and support one another was incredibly rewarding," Mrs Annetts shared as she reflected on the morning's team-building activities.

Later in the day, she witnessed a remarkable transformation during the climbing activity: "With each climb, I watched their self-doubt transform into pride. Their faces lit up with excitement as they reached the top, cheered on by their friends."

Even the challenging weather didn't dampen spirits during canoeing. "At first, there were a few wobbles and uncertain paddles, but soon they were working together, laughing as they steadied their boats," she recalled.

By the end of the day, Mrs Annetts was deeply moved by the students' growth: "The transformation was clear—they had gained confidence, tried something new, and built stronger connections with one another. It was humbling to see how powerful hands-on experiences can be in shaping a young person's growth."

Mrs Hinds, the former Head of Year for this exceptional cohort and current Head of Fortitude, has been a steadfast champion for the students, known for her dedication to their success both in and beyond the classroom, and recently joined the group on an inspiring trip to the World of Work event at the Royal Engineering Army Barracks. She fondly described the importance of the experience, recounting how the students were given an exciting opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the essential work performed by the military engineers and witness the cutting-edge technology used by specialist forces.

"Our students had an incredible opportunity to visit the Royal Engineering Specialist Barracks, where they gained firsthand insights into the vital work of military engineering," she shared.

The day was filled with hands-on experiences, from handling advanced IT equipment to engaging in practical demonstrations. "All students engaged in welding using milk bars to build a bridge and took part in interviewing several managers in their specialist field," Mrs Hinds explained.

She also noted how the visit inspired many students to consider future careers in engineering, technology, and the armed forces. One student shared, "It was amazing to see how engineering plays a role in defence and problem-solving!"

Mrs Hinds also expressed her gratitude to the personnel at the barracks, saying, "A huge thank you to the personnel at the Royal Engineering Specialist Barracks for their warm welcome, informative sessions, and inspiring demonstrations."

Behind the scenes, Miss Dorling and Mrs Goddard ensured the success of The Rising Futures Programme with their essential administrative support and would like to express their pride in this cohort of pupils who showed tremendous courage and commitment throughout the programme, embracing every challenge with determination.

Miss Dorling added that, "We are incredibly proud of the students' efforts and are excited for their continued growth. We look forward to carefully selecting the next cohort of pupils who will have the opportunity to benefit from this inspiring programme. Lastly, we would like to extend a huge thank you to both Mrs Hinds and Mrs Annetts for supporting the students with care and enthusiasm, and a special thank you to the dedication expressed by Verity Walsh throughout the programme."

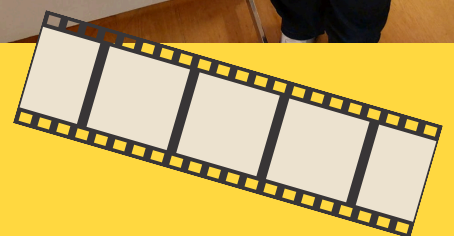
As a community, Stewards Academy is incredibly proud of all the pupils involved in the Rising Futures Programme, celebrating their achievements and growth as they continue to thrive.

Year 11 student Kaitlyn King recently entered her photography work for the Harlow Open 2025. The Open Exhibition 2025 at the Gibberd Gallery can be entered by any artist who was born, studied, currently lives or is working in Harlow, Uttlesford, East Herts, Epping and Broxbourne districts.

Kaitlyn's work was shortlisted with over 400 applicants, and we are exceptionally proud of this achievement. Artists can submit up to 3 works created in the last 3 years for selection by the selection committee. The Open is an exhibition that welcomes visitors of all ages. The Exhibition will open to the public on Saturday 15th February and will close on Saturday 19th April. We encourage anyone to pop along and have a look at the fabulous work on show.

Well done again Kaitlyn for this wonderful achievement.

Well done!



Where can I store my bike at school?

We have a large bike shed by the back entrance to the school where we lock the bikes behind gates until the end of the day. Please use this and do not keep your bikes anywhere else.



Lost and Found

Reminder to please put your children's names in their uniforms and bags so that we can reunite them if lost.



Recording an Absence via Arbor

To record an absence, click on the **Quick Actions** button and then click **Attendance**. From here, click the green **Log Absence** button in the top-right of the page. Here you can input the start and end time for the absence. By default, the absence start and end times reflect the student's full day, but these can be adjusted as needed. Once you have filled in this data, click **Log Absence**. This will then be visible to school staff. School staff can then accept or reject the absence. Approved absences appear in the **Attendance** tab of the Parent Portal or Arbor App.

STEWARDS SAFEGUARDING TEAM 2025

Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Atkinson
(Safeguarding V Office)

safeguarding@stewardsacademy.org

If you have any worries about your safety or wellbeing, speak to a member of the Safeguarding team, or any adult in the School

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Leads



Miss Blake
Mr Myatt
(V Office / Admin Office)

Safeguarding Officers: PSM Office



Ms Morley



Mrs Bolt



Mrs Ali



Mrs Coulson



Mrs Coates



Mr Hughes
(AHT/Maths Office)

For Safeguarding updates and information please visit:



A Belated Happy New Year from the Safeguarding Team

Last term we had lots of interventions in school as part of our continued commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our students.

In December 2024, we had the knife arch stationed at the entrance of school and local police officers. This was a proactive measure and not in response to a concern within school. This was very successful in that it encouraged conversations between officers, students and staff about the law and knife crime.

Our link police officers from the Children & Young Persons' team have also been making a regular appearance in school at lunchtimes. The purpose of these visits is to create and build relationships between the police and young people and provide an opportunity for our students to ask questions, raise concerns and curiosities.

Last term, we were lucky enough to have a presentation from 'Stand Against Violence' who told the sad story of a night out that went very wrong due to an unprovoked attack. It highlighted the fragility of life and how far-reaching the effects of this kind of violence are. It was particularly thought-provoking.

Presenters from OpenView Education and the Anti-Bullying Alliance visited to deliver workshops covering the following:

- Different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help.
- That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others.
- What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.
- What racist bullying is, and the actions we can take if we encounter it.
- Strategies we can use to respond to bullying in a range of different contexts.
- The different roles involved in a bullying situation.
- The definition of bullying with reference to a power imbalance.

The presentation was comprehensive, high energy and highly engaging.

We hope students found these various sessions valuable.

Finally, the news regarding the tragic death of a student from a local school had a huge impact on the Stewards community, many of whom attended primary school with Giona or played football with him. Place2Be have held two sessions in school to provide a safe space for students to talk about their memories of Giona. If your child is continuing to struggle with their loss, please let us know and we will make a referral to Place2Be to check in with them. Our thoughts and condolences go to Giona's family and everyone affected by his death.